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(71) Applicant

British Syphon Industries plc

(Incorporated in United Kingdom)

Emerson Court, Alderley Road, Wilmslow SK9 1NX

(72) Inventor

Brian George Bunting

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Mewburn Ellis & Co.

2/3 Cursitor Street, London EC4A 1BQ

(51) INT CL⁴

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None

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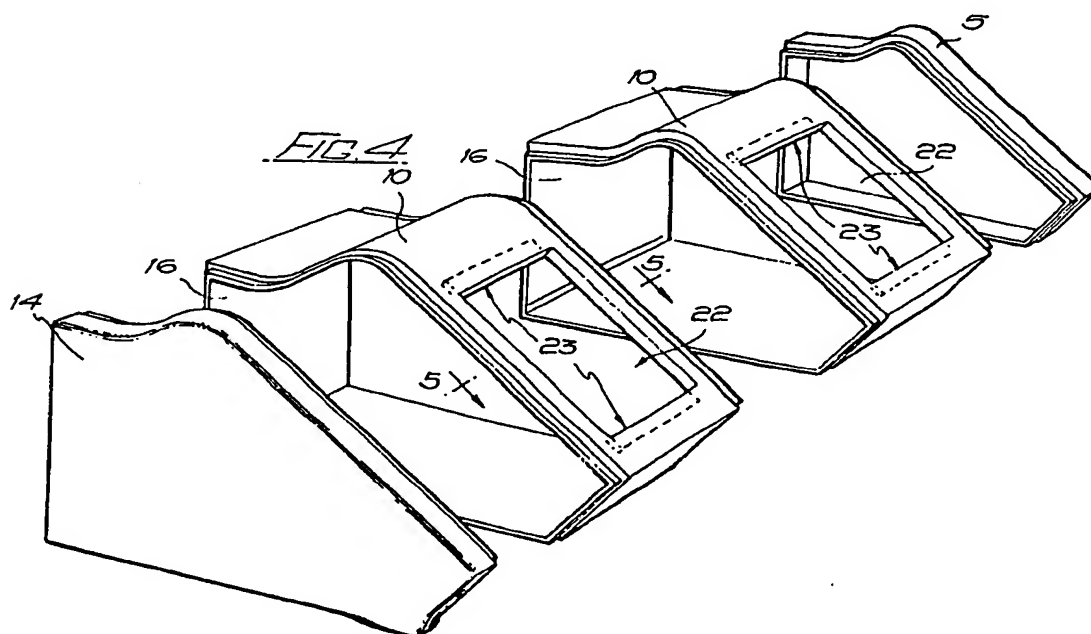
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Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class B67D

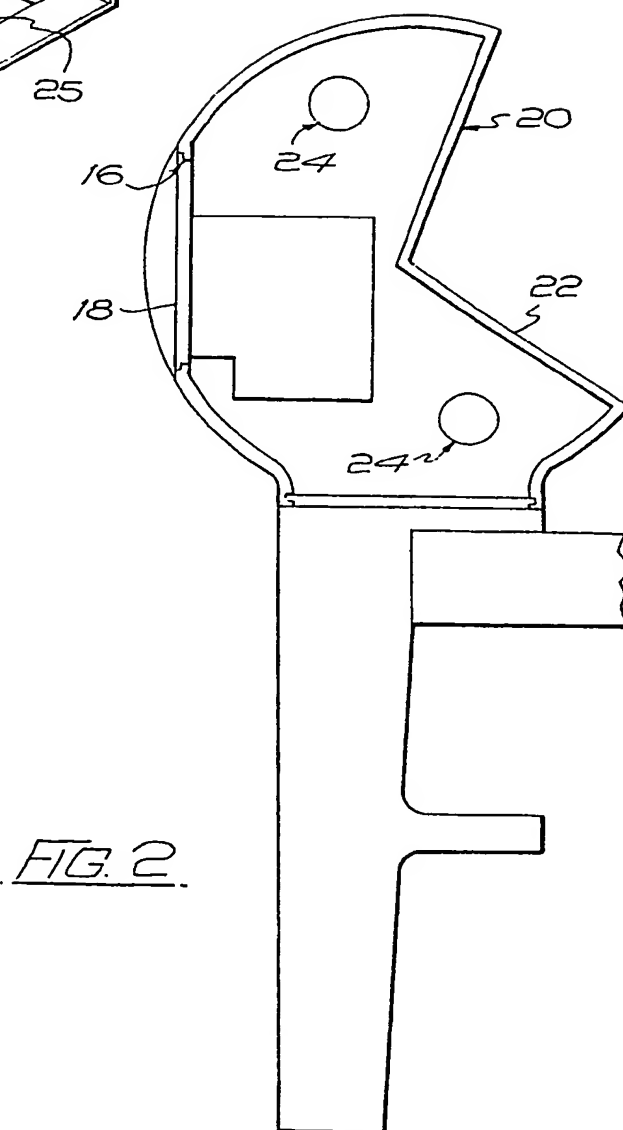
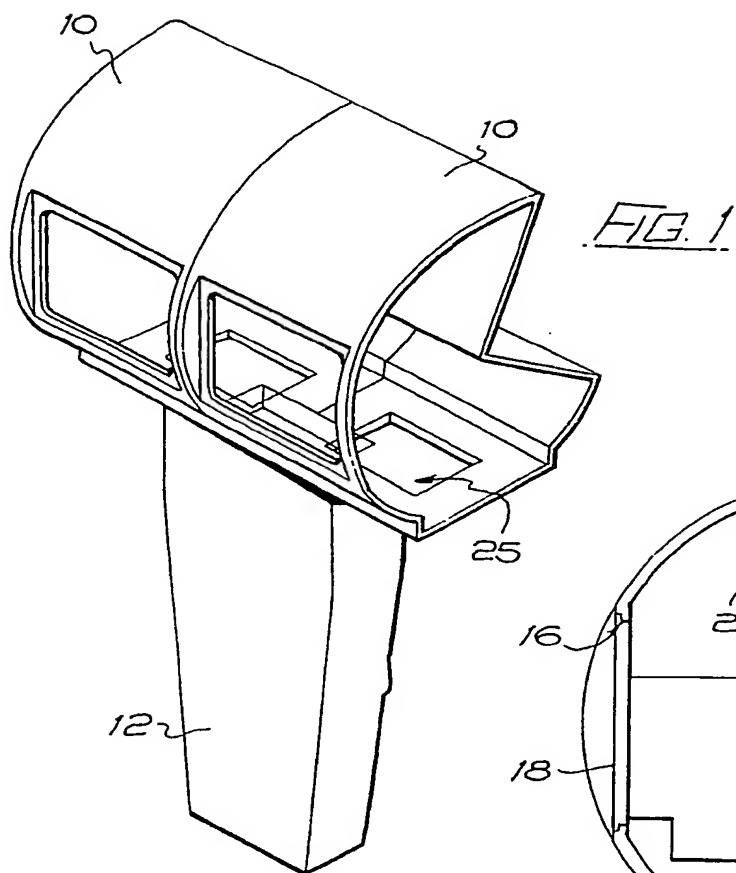
(54) **Modular drinks dispense unit**

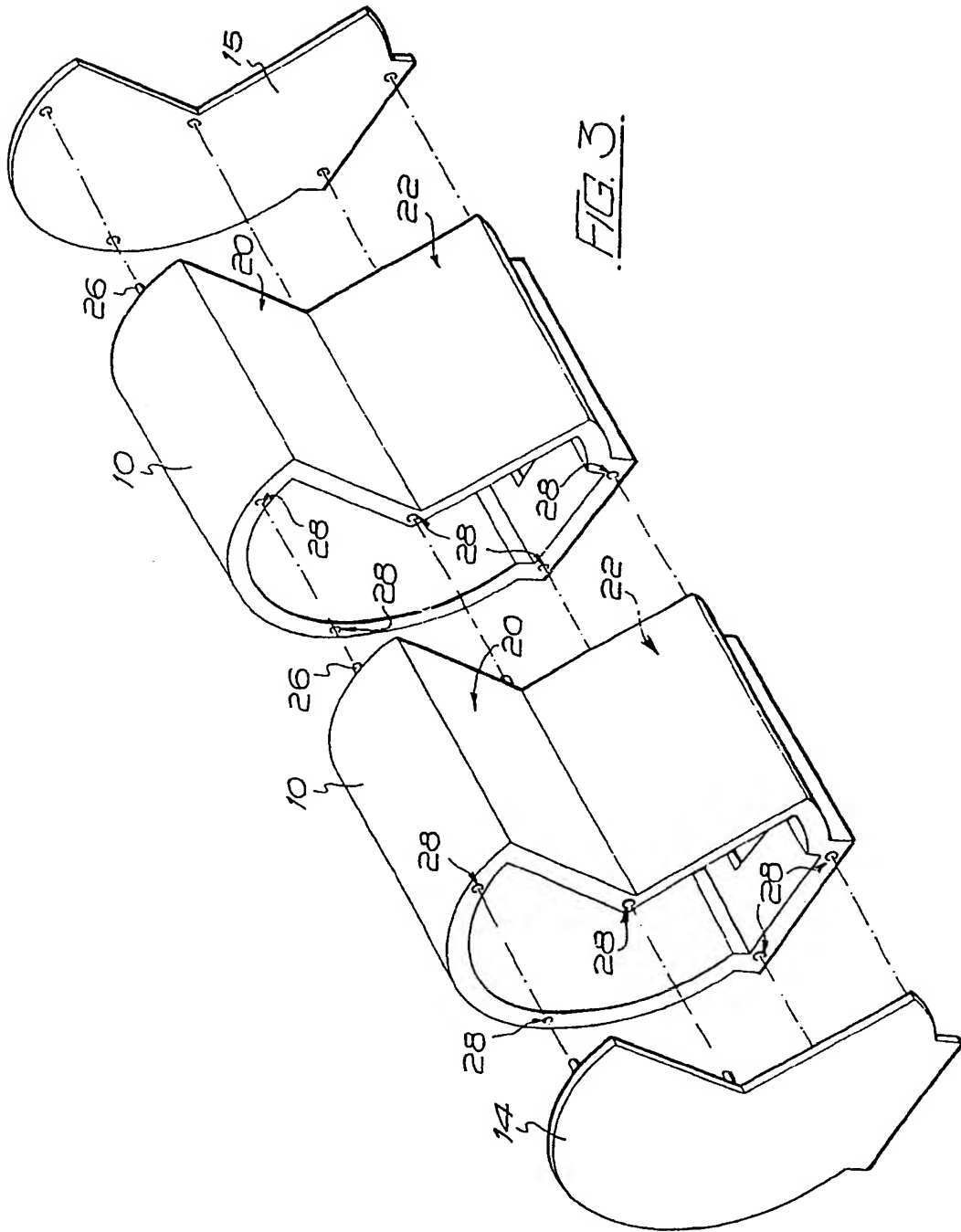
(57) A drinks dispense installation including at least one translucent dispense head providing a mounting for a dispense tap and a display area for advertising matter.

For ease of assembly, the dispense installation is composed of a set of parts which can very simply be fitted together side by side, that is to say an indeterminate number of open ended dispense heads (10) and a single pair of end plates (14) and (5) for closing the opposite ends of the dispense head (10) or of an assembly of side by side dispense heads as the case may be.



GB 2 178 729 A





3-3

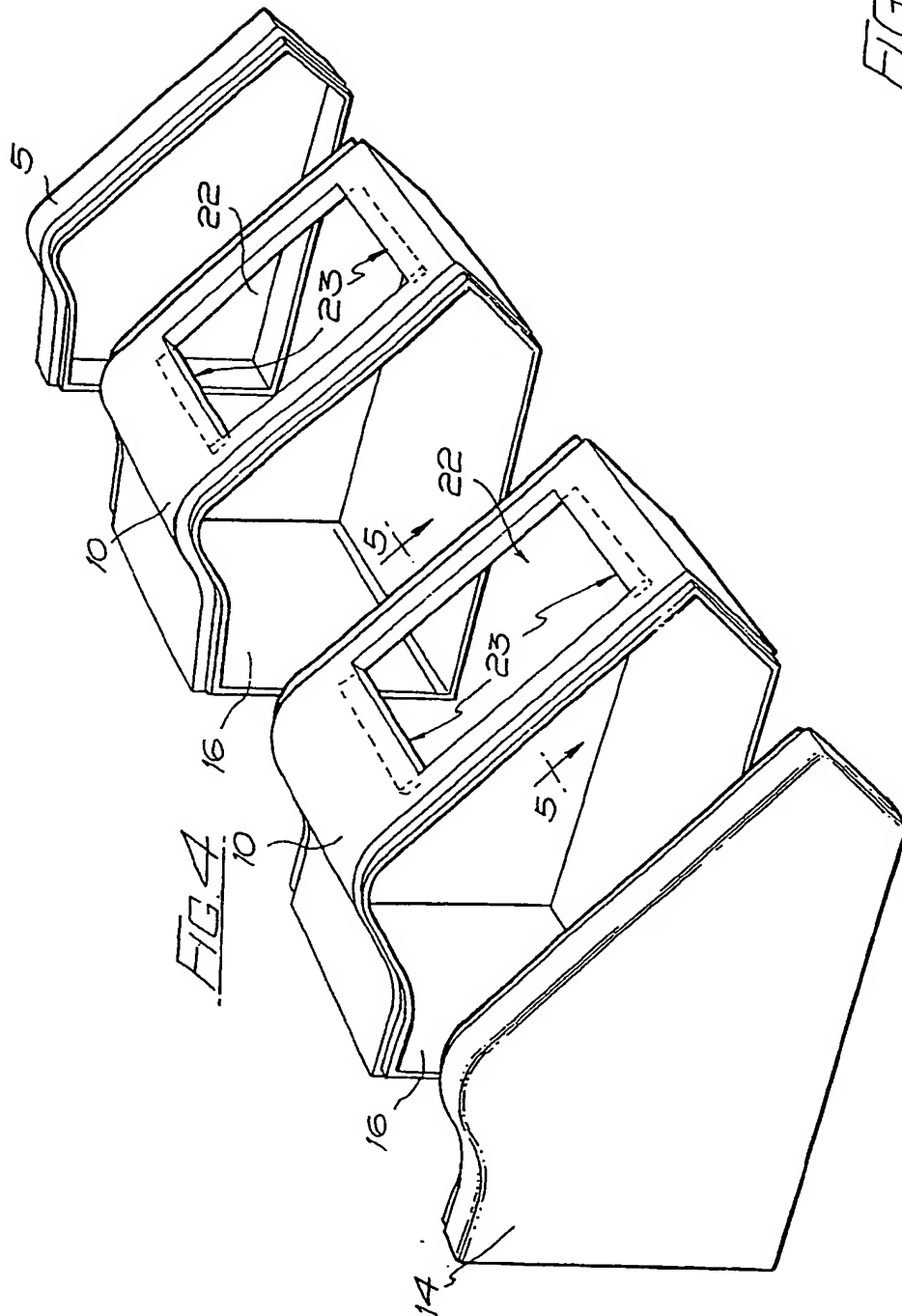


FIG. 4

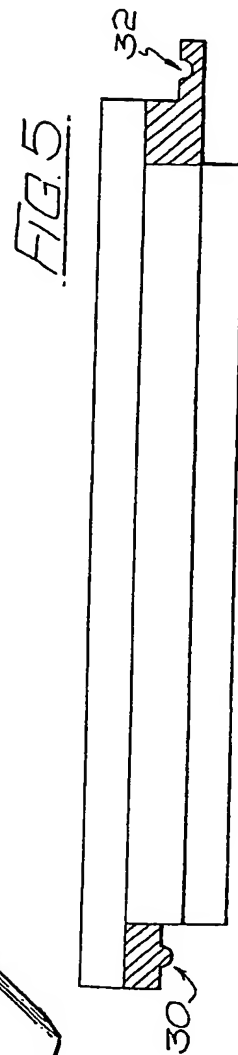


FIG. 5

SPECIFICATION

Drinks dispense unit

- 5 The invention relates to a drinks dispense unit for bar top installation.

In general, previously known drinks dispense installations have been specially designed as either single dispense points or multi-dispense points, this resulting in the need to make individual units for specific applications. Consequently, this has led to inflexibility in manufacture and high unit cost.

- 10 The object of the invention is to provide a drinks dispense unit which will be versatile and able to be manufactured at relatively low cost.

- According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a set of parts for constructing a beverage dispense installation with an indeterminate number of dispense taps, including one or more open ended hollow dispense heads, the or each dispense head being adapted for the connection of a beverage dispense tap on a front face, the installation including also a single pair of end plates for closing the opposite ends of the dispense head or of an assembly of side by side dispense heads as the case may be. The beverage dispense head, or the assembly of side by side dispense heads will preferably be made of a translucent material and provided with means for the installation of internal strip lighting. The or each dispense head will preferably have flat surfaces which can be used as display areas for advertising matter.

- According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a beverage dispense installation, constructed from a set of parts as described above.

- In order that the invention may be fully understood and readily carried into effect, an embodiment thereof will now be described, with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bar top dispense installation embodying the invention,

Figure 2 is an end view,

Figure 3 is an exploded view,

- 50 *Figure 4* is a view similar to *Fig. 3* and illustrating a modified construction of dispense installation embodying the invention, and

Figure 5 is a section on the line 5-5 in *Fig. 4*.

- Referring now to *Fig. 1* of the drawings, the beverage dispense installation there illustrated is viewed from the staff side of the bar top on which it is mounted. Being intended for the mounting of a side by side pair of beverage dispense taps (not shown), the installation includes a side by side pair of dispense heads, 10, 10, a single clamp 12 and a pair of end plates 14, 15, (see *Fig. 3*) which close the outer ends of the pair of dispense heads.

- As best seen in *Fig. 3*, each dispense head

- 10 has been formed as an open ended hollow member providing on one side a seating 16 for a tap mounting plate 18 (see *Fig. 2*) and, on the other side, flat surfaces 20 and 22 which are intended to serve as display areas for advertising matter. The dispense heads are moulded in a translucent plastics material and in use will contain strip lighting fitments behind the surfaces 20 and 22 as indicated at 24 in *Fig. 2*.

- Each dispense head is formed with an aperture 25 in its underside. When the installation is intended for the mounting of a single beverage dispense tap or some odd multiple of taps, the single dispense head, or the centre one of the appropriate number of dispense heads, as the case may be, will directly overlie the clamp and the aperture in the underside of the dispense head will coincide with an aperture at the upper end of the clamp. In all other cases, for example as in the installation illustrated in *Fig. 1*, the apertures in the underside of a side by side pair of dispense heads will partly overlie the aperture at the upper end of the clamp. In this way, whatever the number of dispense heads in a particular installation, the beverage distribution conduits and electric wiring to the strip lighting fitments can be brought up from the interior of the clamp quite conveniently. The manner in which the or each dispense head is secured to the clamp 12 is not shown in the drawings but may be by means of screws and/or by means of a dovetailed joint connection.

- Each dispense head is formed at one end with five short dowel elements 26 and at the other end with five shallow holes 28 complementary to the dowel elements. Similarly, one of the end plates is provided with similar dowel elements and the other with similar holes, the arrangement being such that the side by side components of the installation can be plugged together very securely.

- It will be understood that any number of the dispense heads from two upwards can be plugged together, as shown, depending on the number of beverage dispense taps required, and indeed that, if desired, a dispense installation may include but a single dispense head.

- A single dispense point is made up using only the three basic components and a single clamp. A multi-head dispense point is made up from the same three components, with an appropriately greater number of dispense heads. Consequently, the arrangement is versatile and of relatively low cost.

- Various modifications may be made, especially in the manner in which the several parts of the dispense installation are fitted together. The dispense heads can have outline shapes different from those shown in *Figs. 1* to *3*. For example, in *Fig. 4* there is shown a different general outline shape with the seating 16 on one side for a tap mounting plate and on the other side a single inclined surface 22 to

serve as a display area for advertising matter. In this case the area 22 is bounded top and bottom with undercut slots 23 in which sheets of advertising matter (not shown) can be engaged.

5 In this case it will be seen that the manner in which the dispense heads can be secured together end to end, and the end caps attached, is also different from the embodiment of Figs. 1 to 3. As shown in Fig. 5, the opposite ends of the dispense heads are provided with internal and external engagement surfaces respectively. The internal engagement surfaces are formed with shallow beads 30 and the external engagement surfaces are formed with shallow grooves 32 in which the beads can be snap fitted. It will be understood that of the two end caps required in each installation one will be provided with similar internal engagement surfaces and the other with similar external engagement surfaces.

CLAIMS

25 1. A set of parts for constructing a beverage dispense installation with an indeterminate number of dispense taps, including one or more open ended hollow dispense heads, the or each dispense head being adapted for the connection of a beverage dispense tap on a front face, the installation including also a single pair of end plates for closing the opposite ends of the dispense head or of an assembly of side by side dispense heads as the case may be.

30 2. A set of parts according to claim 1, in which the beverage dispense head, or the assembly of side by side dispense heads are made of a translucent material and are provided with means for the installation of internal strip lighting.

3. A set of parts according to either one of the preceding claims, in which the or each dispense head has flat surfaces which can be used as display areas for advertising matter.

45 4. A beverage dispense installation constructed from a set of parts according to any one of the accompanying claims.

5. A set of parts for constructing a beverage dispense installation, the parts being constructed, arranged and adapted to be fitted together substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

55 6. A beverage dispense installation, constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.